



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho State Department of Education
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www.sde.idaho.gov

Media contact:
Melissa McGrath
(208) 332-6818
mrmcgrath@sde.idaho.gov

DEPARTMENT TO HOLD REGIONAL PUBLIC HEARINGS ON COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

BOISE – The Idaho State Department of Education will be hosting a series of regional public hearings on the proposed K-12 Common Core State Standards for mathematics and English language arts across Idaho in October.

Idaho has worked with 47 other states, two territories and the District of Columbia over the past year to develop these more rigorous, common standards in math and English language arts that are comparable with any country around the world. Thirty-five states and the District of Columbia have already adopted the Common Core State Standards.

“The Common Core State Standards are a voluntary, state-led effort to help ensure Idaho has a public education system that prepares all students to be successful in life after high school,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna said. “Idaho students are ready for this challenge.”

The proposed Common Core State Standards were initially approved by the Idaho State Board of Education in August and are now available for public comment online or via fax or mail. Content area experts in math and English language arts from the State Department of Education also have traveled across the state in June and again in September to explain the Common Core State Standards, to answer questions and to gather feedback.

The standards will go back before the State Board for official approval in November. If approved, the standards will go to the Idaho Legislature in January 2011 for final approval.

This month, staff from the State Department of Education will hit the road again, traveling across Idaho to host a series of official public hearings on the proposed Common Core State Standards. These public hearings will not include a presentation on the standards but will provide the opportunity for people to offer comments for the official public record.

Idaho initially signed on to join the Common Core State Standards Initiative in June 2009. This Initiative builds directly on previous efforts of leading organizations and states that have focused on developing college- and career-ready standards. After a series of drafts, public comment periods and revisions, the final Common Core State Standards were published on June 2, 2010.

Adopting the Common Core State Standards is voluntary. Idaho is using the same process to adopt the proposed Common Core State Standards as it uses to adopt content standards each year.

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The Common Core State Standards are available for the public to review and comment on the State Department of Education's website at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/common/>.

Here is the schedule for the Common Core State Standards regional public hearings:

- October 5: 6 p.m. in Twin Falls, Canyon Ridge High School, Room 301
- October 6: 6 p.m. in Idaho Falls (Ammon), Hillcrest High School, Library
- October 7: 6 p.m. in Pocatello, Idaho State University, Student Union Building, Heritage Room
- October 12: 6 p.m. in Coeur d'Alene, North Idaho College, Student Union Building
- October 13: 6 p.m. in Lewiston, Lewis-Clark State College, Sacajawea Room 112
- October 19: 6 p.m. in Meridian, Mountain View High School, Lecture Hall

If you are unable to attend a regional public meeting, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/common/> to learn more about the Common Core State Standards for mathematics and English language arts and to submit your comments online.

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